

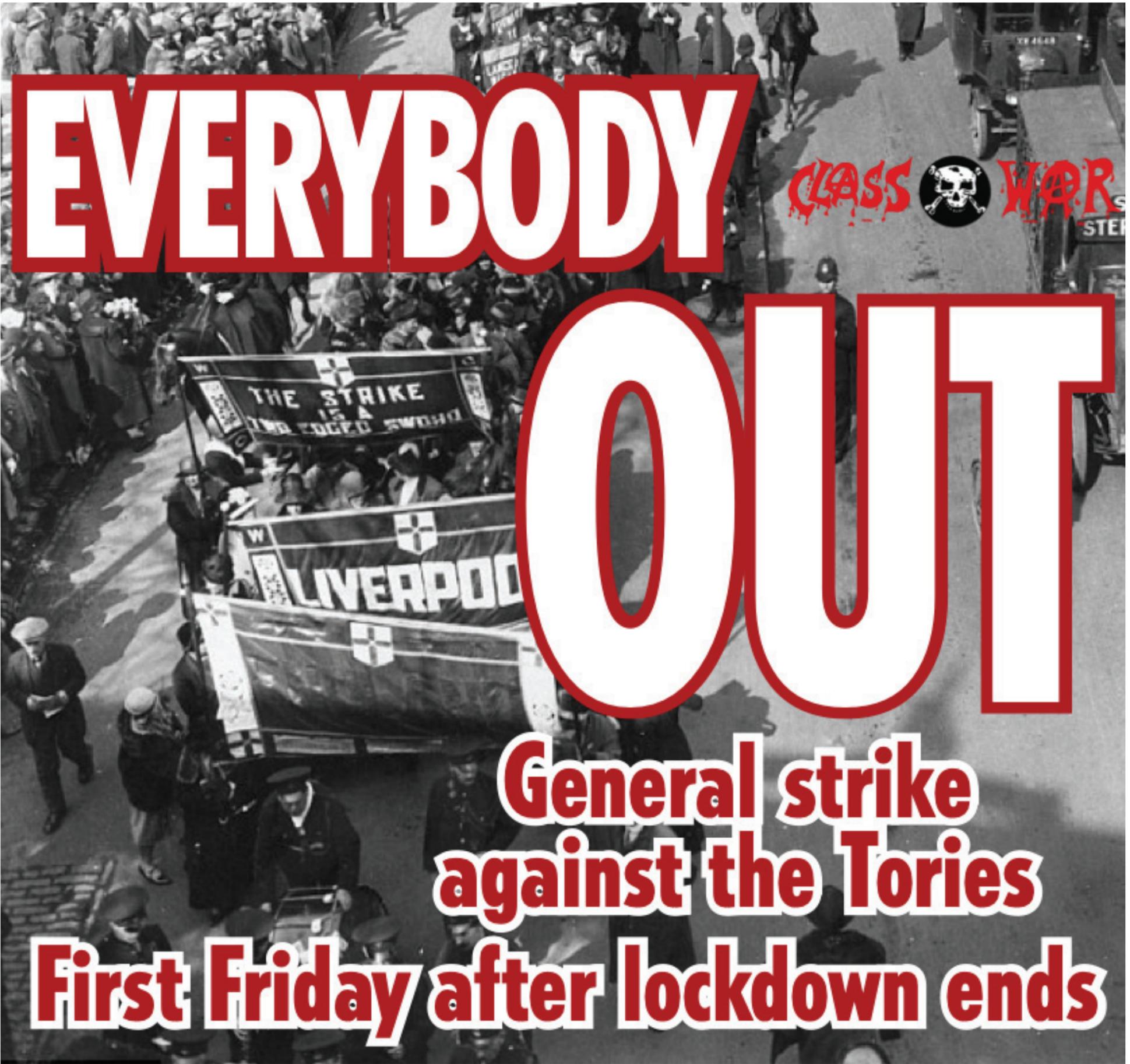
CLASS



WAR

DAILY

TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2020



EVERYBODY OUT

General strike against the Tories

First Friday after lockdown ends

Wakey wakey. The astounding revelation since the Covid outbreak has been that the working class is so called because it does all of the work.

This motley crew of nurses, shop workers, bus drivers, lorry drivers, postal workers, cleaners, factory workers who were previously thought to be an outmoded Marxist concept or a bunch of shirkers and benefit cheats are now discovered to be heroes.

Thatcher must be turning in her grave – once we've dug her up anyway – having spent ten years trying to

undermine the idea that the working class existed at all. So she deliberately set out to undermine the identity of the working class by gentrification from individual council house selling to dismantling collective struggle in the workplace. This loss of class identity manifested itself at the last election where vast numbers of labour voters voted tory – directly against their own class interest.

As comrade Marx said 'the class is only a class when it perceives it's separate collective interests and acts in its own interests permanently.'

Now the idea of the working class for many people has radically changed back in a few weeks. Our job is to make this our slogan:

NO GOING BACK – NO GOING BACK TO THE WORLD OF BOSSES AND SERFS and no going back to deference and wage slavery.

Our class has not died in their tens of thousands to go back to the way things were before.

So Class War is calling for a one day general strike on the Friday after lockdown is ended. For such a small group as Class War to make

such a call will seem a risible move for most on the left, but we believe our class is more ambitious than its wannabe leftist leaders.

A salutary reading of Lenin's April Theses may come in handy here comrades.

There – we have made the call, we have crossed the Rubicon and as Comrade Bakunin said "ridicule is nothing to be scared of".

EVERYBODY OUT – GENERAL STRIKE AFTER LOCKDOWN ENDS.

SO, WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR HOMELESS?

After lockdown because of Covid-19 was announced, local authorities were praised for miraculously sweeping the homeless off the streets and suddenly finding them accommodation. But where did they go? Until a couple of weeks ago I worked in a large charity-run hostel in a seaside town. Towards the end of March our council quietly announced a 'quarantine hotel' had been secured for housing the town's hostel residents who showed symptoms.

However it became apparent this was also being used as accommodation for street sleepers; a holding pen until hostel rooms became available. Everyone else is barred from having strangers in their homes except hostel residents who are expected to frequently accept new housemates, fresh from 'Quarantine Hotel'.

Hostel residents, many who have complex needs and are struggling with their mental health and issues around addiction, have been abandoned by services. As their support workers from various agencies all take to working from home, service-users are left to manage as best they can; probation, mental health team and the prescribing service have evaporated. Methadone, Subutex and other controlled drugs usually handed out daily have become fortnightly dumps with no dose management support, risking both overdose and withdrawal symptoms in chaotic users. Some disabled residents have found that they are unable to access online or telephone consultations because of their condition, which in turn has led to a decline in their health.

I listened to one man who believes his psychiatric appointments are the only thing keeping him together but since moving to telephone consultations

his speech impediment has deteriorated to the point he feels he can't communicate, this leaves him feeling desperately frustrated. All this puts extra strain on staff working in hostels. Being charged with 'keeping them in', becomes an impossible task when working with capable adults. Our hostel stopped producing meals and food was brought in from a central distribution point.

Staffing levels therefore reduced and our job roles changed and we became a skeleton crew, allegedly to reduce the chance of contagion. People who had previously been employed as cooks, cleaners and decorators in the hostel now all became glorified security guards armed with Flash Wipes, whilst the well paid and highly qualified office staff took to working from the safety of their homes.

Gloves and hand sanitiser have all been diverted to NHS leaving a shortage in the community. We did receive a box of masks and visors but were seen remotely by bosses on CCTV trying it on; they telephoned us to tell us to take it off and put it away 'till an outbreak actually happened'. As tensions rise in hostels the concern of violence breaking out is greater than that of Covid-19. Minimum wage staff are being used as cannon fodder in the battle against this pandemic whilst any existing front-line support collapses in the flicker of Zoom meetings.

Much has been made in the media about the tremendous Government lead effort to get 'people off the street' but behind the scenes workers, hostel residents and street sleepers are facing extra risk. As usual it's the very poorest in society facing the brunt of this crisis.

Lilith Bones



In recent days, in addition to the burden of being key workers, keeping the UK connected, telecommunication workers have faced the additional threat of being attacked and spat at in the streets. Why?

Because the tin-foil-helmet conspiracy nuts think Covid-19 was caused by roll out of the 5G network. While it is legitimate to question the safety of new (and existing) technology, this opportunistic latching onto Coronavirus is bullshit. We well understand the spread of pandemics. They have happened throughout history. Scientists have been predicting one for years – and governments have failed to prepare. It has fuck all to do with 5G.

This conspiracy nonsense, fuelled by the anti-vaxers, religious fundamentalists, climate change deniers and the other usual suspects, is another distraction from the very real problems we face right now. Attacking working people going about their daily business – and putting peoples' lives at risk by damaging our communication systems is completely fucking stupid. Every new technology has faced such panics – most completely unproven. Your home wi-fi router and other domestic appliances are quite likely to be pumping out higher frequencies than 5G – and you are happy to have them in your house, let alone out on the street!

Furthermore, we have absolute fucking certainty that the fossil fuel and chemical industries cause mass pollution. We understand the huge risk nuclear power poses to the world. We know that global warming is threatening all life on this planet. There are serious questions around the pesticides

we put on our foods. And, of course, the most obvious risk to life expectancy is poverty! So how about organising to put an end to those? There are legitimate concerns about the risks of the EMF radiation produced by mobile phones, but if we are going to take them seriously we also need to consider the natural EMF produced by the sun, the EMF produced by mains electricity, trains and trams, microwave cookers, TVs, laptops and more. We also need to look at the dangers posed by the technology they replace. Arbitrarily focusing on 5G is both ridiculous and dangerous.

It distracts from the very real problem of coronavirus, while not even properly looking at the problem it claims to be addressing. 5G conspiracy theorists are nothing more than the useful idiots for Johnson, Trump and the rest of the capitalist elite, who would deflect from their catastrophic handling of the Covid-19 crisis, which is costing literally 1,000s of lives every day.

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